Sex discrimination cause of poor health of girls and women

1475. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent review the UNICEF has cited sex discrimination as a major contributing factor for the poor health of girls and women in societies around the world, including India;

(b) if so, what measures have been suggested in the review to combat this evil; and .....

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Loans advanced by SDFC

1476. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the functioning of Shipping Development Fund Committee is deteriorating and that the recovery of loan instalments are so regular and large scale deferment is being allowed by officials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that orders for purchase of new ships from the shipyards are being cancelled by the ship owners (one from Goa) and the policy of giving loans for purchase of fish trawlers is not proper and people are diverting the loan money for other purposes; and

(c) what are the steps being taken by Government to streamline the working of the Shipping Development Fund Committee and also to recover the loans already advanced by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Some Shipping Development Fund Committee loans shipping companies have defaulted in repayment of SDFC dues arising out of long drawn world-wide recession in the international shipping market. Government have granted reschdulement for defaults in payment of instalments of loan and interest committed by shipping companies upto March, 1983;

(b) There have been cases involving two companies who have either refused to take delivery of the ships ordered on Indain shipyards or not willing to comply with the contracts.

Loans for the purpose of acquiring fishing trawlers are sanctioned on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and disbursed direct to the concerned shipyard against irrevocable bank guarantee given in favour of SDFC. This procedure for granting loans to the shipyard under bank guarantee does not provide scope for diversion of funds by the fishing company. However a case of Fishing Concern diversifyin gto other activities against the terms of contract has come to notice. This is being looked into by Agriculture Ministry.

(c) Government has decided that the mechanism of providing credit to Shipping industry through SDFC has ceased to be relevant in the present context. It has been decided that like other financial organisations, funding and financing of ships should also be handled by the Ministry of Finance through an appropriate finance institution.

Steps taken by SDFC to recover dues from defaulting shipping company include issuance of notices to all defaulting shipping companies to pay the defaulted amounts and fore closure of mortgages against the ships